



MEDIA ADVISORY

Nebraska District Office 402-221-4691

Release Date: IMMEDIATE

Advisory Number:

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Nebraska Hearing Offers Small Business Owners Opportunity to Address Excessive Federal Regulatory Enforcement

WHO:	SBA National Ombudsman Nicholas Owens, members of the Region VII Regulatory Fairness Board (serving the states of Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas) and representatives of Federal regulatory agencies will hear concerns, comments and complaints about federal regulatory enforcement and compliance. Small business owners, representatives of community organizations and trade associations, and business leaders are invited to testify about compliance and enforcement of regulations by any Federal agency.
WHAT:	To create a more cooperative regulatory environment among federal agencies and small businesses, Congress has directed the SBA National Ombudsman to hold Regulatory Fairness Hearings across the United States. Concerns and complaints aired at this hearing will be directed to the appropriate Federal regulatory agency for a high-level review. If any small business, non-profit organization, or small government entity believe they have experienced unfair Federal regulatory enforcement or compliance actions they may submit their comments to our office and at hearing. The National Ombudsman requests the particular Federal agency to conduct a high-level review of the specific issues and respond to our office within a specified time period. In many instances the Federal agency has reduced or waived particular penalties and/or compliance actions. At a minimum, the agencies conduct a review of the enforcement action to ensure fairness.
WHEN:	Tuesday, April 15, 2008 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
WHERE:	Conference Center Security National Bank 1120 South 101 st Street Omaha, Nebraska 68124
MEDIA:	National Ombudsman Nicholas Owens will be available before and after the hearing for media interviews.

Anyone desiring confidentiality may request that his or her name not be released and may submit written testimony in lieu of a public appearance at the hearing.

Any small business concerned about excessive enforcement of federal regulations can contact their local SBA district office or the National Ombudsman at 888-REG-FAIR (888-734-3247) or go to the National Ombudsman Web site at www.sba.gov/ombudsman. For more information on the April 15, 2008, Regulatory Fairness Hearing, contact Barbara Foster at SBA's Nebraska District Office at 402-221-7212.

For more information on SBA programs and services, visit the SBA's extensive website at www.sba.gov.